

## Games



Play large group games.  
(25 minutes)

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Large blanket or sheet
- Tape or paper to mark a 3x3 grid
- 2 sets of different objects, 5 each (e.g., red and blue pieces of paper, paper plates, or X and O objects)
- Pennies (or other coin), 1 per player

### LARGE GROUP GAME: BLANKET DROP

**Materials:** Large blanket or sheet and two helpers to hold the blanket

**Object of game:** Be the team to gain the most members

**How to play:** Divide the group into two equal teams. Each team should sit or stand on opposite sides of the blanket, facing each other.

The two helpers hold up the blanket between the two teams so that neither side can see the other. Teams decide on the order in which they will participate, ensuring everyone gets a turn. When the game begins, the helpers lift the blanket so it fully conceals both teams from each other. Each team quietly selects one person to move forward and stand close to the blanket.

On the count of three, the helpers quickly drop the blanket, revealing the two participants standing closest to it. The objective is for the participants to shout out the name of the person standing across from them as quickly as possible. The first person to correctly say the other's name wins the round. The person who loses joins the winning team.

If both participants shout out the name at the same time, it's considered a tie, and both participants stay with their original teams. The blanket is raised again, and the game continues with new participants.

The game continues until one team has all the participants, or for a set amount of time. The team with the most members at the end wins.

**Tip:** Give a grade or grade range requirement for each round so that the students on both sides of the sheet are close to the same age and have a better chance of having an equal response time to their opponent. For example, the first participants are in 5th grade, the second participants are in 3rd through 4th grade, etc.

**Variations:**

- **Mix-It-Up:** After a few rounds, the teams can switch sides or shuffle their order to make it more challenging.
- **Speed Round:** Speed up the blanket drop to make it more challenging!

### LARGE GROUP GAME: GIANT TIC TAC TOE

**Materials:** Tape, or use paper to mark a 3x3 grid, two sets of different objects (e.g., red and blue pieces of paper or X and O objects). This could be pieces of paper or paper plates. Make sure you have 5 of each object. Depending on the size of your group, consider making multiple teams and Tic Tac Toe grids.

**Object of game:** Get three markers in a row

**How to play:** Draw or tape a 3x3 grid on the ground or on a large piece of paper. Ensure each square is large enough for participants to place their markers clearly.

Split the players into two teams. Each team will have their own set of objects (e.g., Team X and Team O). Have each team line up in a single-file line at a designated starting point, a few feet away from the grid. The goal is for a team to get three of their markers in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) on the grid, similar to traditional Tic Tac Toe.

**Variations:**

- **Lesson Questions:** Ask each team to answer a question pertaining to the lesson. Once they answer the question correctly, they can run and place their team's letter.
- **Obstacle Relay:** Add obstacles (e.g., cones, hurdles) that players must navigate through before placing their marker on the grid.
- **Team Strategy:** Allow teams a short strategy session before the game to plan their moves.

### LARGE GROUP GAME: PENNY CHINNY

**Materials:** Pennies (or other coin), 1 per player

**Object of game:** Be the last one balancing a penny on your chin

**How to play:** On "go" they must balance the penny on their chin while trying to knock everyone else's penny off. This means the penny will lay flat on the chin and the students will be looking up into the air. The last one standing with the penny balanced wins.